

Thomas Maskell House
Bacons Neck, Cumberland County, New Jersey

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

Thomas Maskell House
Bacons Neck, Cumberland County, New Jersey

Owner: Abner S. Hires Estate

Date of Erection: About 1720 brick unit; frame
addition later

Architect:

Builder: Thomas Maskell

Present Condition: Fair

Number of Stories: Two

Materials of Construction: Foundation - brick

Exterior walls - brick,
Flemish bond two sides
earlier unit; later unit
frame

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - gambrel with
dormers on brick unit;
pitch on frame section

Historical Data:

In 1658 Thomas Maskell¹, immigrant from England, married Bythia Parson in Connecticut. Their son Thomas² came to West Jersey by 1703. By an assignment dated 21 January 1703, Edmond Shaw transferred title to land in Salem County, New Jersey, to Thomas Maskell, "mariner" of Fairfield in same county, and by a deed of 12 March 1708 Noah Wheaton

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conveyed property described therein as bounded in part by Maskell's land. The will of Thomas² Maskell of Cohansey, Salem County, dated October 26, 1732 devised "the house I now live in During her widowhood or the time she shall live unmarried" to his wife Mary; the personal property to his grandson "Maskell Yeuen" (Ewing) and the rest of my children, a son Constant³ and two daughters, Mary married to Thomas Yeuen, and another to Thomas Wethman. Constant³, according to the tombstone in the old Presbyterian cemetery at Greenwich, died December 12, 1739 at the age of forty-three. Apparently the Thomas Maskell⁴ who was appointed a sheriff by Governor Franklin was his son; his tombstone indicates he was born in 1720 and died in 1803.

Maskell Ewing² of Greenwich, Cumberland County, the next owner of the property left it by will to his son Maskell³. This will is dated March 30, 1790 and proved April 18, 1796. The son Maskell and his wife Jane by deed dated January 22, 1800 (Recited in 3-108 Cumberland Deeds) sold the property to Jonathan Doan of Trenton, "housecarpenter", who with Mary his wife deeded it to Captain David Sheppard on March 30, 1801. (Ibid.)

Maskell² Ewing was the son of Thomas¹ Ewing who came from Londonderry, Ireland, to Long Island in 1718. He removed to Greenwich and married in 1720 Mary Maskell daughter of Thomas² Maskell. Maskell Ewing was their first child. He was born in 1721 and married Mary Paget in 1743. Their tombstones in the Presbyterian cemetery at Greenwich indicate that Thomas died on April 16, 1796 age seventy-five and Mary on October 30, 1798 age seventy-five. Incidentally Thomas Ewing and Mary Maskell had ten children - two of whom, James and Thomas, were among the tea burners of Greenwich.

In the division of the real estate of David Sheppard in 1828 Ercurious L. Sheppard received the home lot (C-289 Book Divisions, Cumberland County). The next transfer is for the year 1839 when Josiah Harmer and wife Hannah deeded the property to John

Tyler (67-116 Cumberland Deeds); in this deed it is described as formerly owned by Ercurious L. Sheppard. In his will of 1886 (L-528 Cumberland Wills) John Tyler left the piece in question to his three sons. By foreclosure Abner S. Hires received title in 1927; his estate are the present owners.

At one time this farm was called Vauxhall Gardens probably from Vauxhall Public Gardens in Philadelphia which later was undoubtedly suggested by London's Vauxhall Gardens.

Bibliography:

Andrews, F. D. Tombstone Inscription in the Old Presbyterian Burying Ground at Greenwich, New Jersey Vineland, 1915

Andrews, F. D. The Tea Burners of Cumberland County Vineland, 1908

Some Old Farms and Farm Houses in New Jersey Trenton, State Department of Agriculture, 1938

A search of records in Cumberland County by Frances Hall and records at Trenton by Lewis D. Cook

Lewis D. Cook
Supervising Historian

Approved:

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